

The Importance of Quantifying the Economic Impacts of Invasive Weeds



Steve Schoenig
California Dept. of Food & Agriculture



What We Don't Know

- The acres and location of any common invasive plant.
- How fast they are spreading.
- Where they will eventually grow – if allowed.
- How much do departments and agencies spend?
- How much does everyone spend?
- What is the lost productivity to CA agriculture?
- How do weeds impact real estate values?
- How will weeds impact ecosystem services?

%5 of 137 billion = 6.85 billion

What We Need to Assemble

- Decent inventories, surveys and weed GIS.
- Models of spread and susceptible habitats.
- Economic studies and models for major weeds.
- Surveys of how much is being spent on weed control in California
- Understand the impacts of wildland weeds on ecosystem services in California

Ecosystem Services

- Soil Formation
- Recreation
- Nutrient cycling
- Water regulation and supply
- Climate regulation (temperature and precipitation)
- Habitat
- Pollination
- Flood and storm regulation
- Food and Raw materials production
- Genetic resources
- Atmospheric gas balance
- All other services